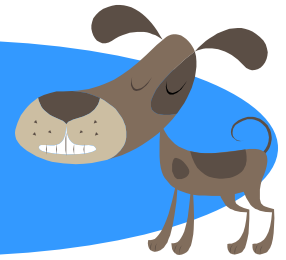


Gimme Shelter

News from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter

Loudoun County
Department of
Animal Care &
Control



September/October 2010

Volume 6, Issue 9

Black Cat Weekend

The Loudoun County Animal Shelter is looking to bring some good luck to homeless black cats during the “Black Cat Weekend,” October 16-17.

During the “Black Cat Weekend”, October 16-17, all black cats adopted from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter will be spayed/neutered for free (if necessary). That means that kittens under 6 months of age will have a \$40 adoption fee, all cats ages 6 months to 7 years will be \$20, and all cats over 7 years will only be \$10.



Black cats are the least likely to be adopted from shelters, as their red, gray, and tabby cousins are often more visually appealing to potential adopters. And persistent myths about black cats bringing bad luck sometimes make families choose another kitty. Of course the “unlucky” black cat is just a superstition – in fact, in Europe black cats are considered to bring good luck, while white cats are thought to be the unlucky ones.

Black cats have also fallen victim to urban legends, with many animal shelters restricting their adoption in October due to concerns about the adopter’s true intentions. However, this myth was debunked long ago by data and scientific studies that show black cats are not at risk during this time, according to a recent article by the New York Post.

Black cats may have the luck of genetics on their side as well – research has shown that the gene for melanism, which makes their fur black, may be able to protect against certain viruses or bacteria, making them more resistant to disease than their lighter colored counterparts.

Cats of all colors are reported to be good for their owner’s health as well – according to a study from the University of Minnesota, cat owners are 40% less likely to suffer from a heart attack or stroke than non cat owners.

October is the perfect time to find a new feline friend – and perhaps change the luck of one of the wonderful black cats waiting for a new home! The Loudoun County Animal Shelter has lots of black cats and kittens available for adoption – just visit www.loudoun.gov/animals to see them online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

And the Winner Is...

Animal Care & Control took home two awards at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government’s annual Animal Services Awards, presented October 1 in Washington, DC.

Deputy Chief Animal Control Officer Adrienne Burton was honored with the **Leadership Award** for her work with the Animal Control Division. Officer Burton was recognized for guiding her team through many stressful and complex cases, while always leading by example to promote teamwork and excellent service to the public.

Administrative Manager Donna Levesque and Administrative Assistant Angela Joynt were presented with the **Administrative/**

Customer Service Award for their work revamping the County’s dog license process. Their innovative and creative solutions allowed for an increase in dog licensing from 22% to 35% of the estimated number of dogs in the county, while making improvements in automated systems allowing for a reduction in staff time to process and issue dog licenses and tags.

A Loudoun County veterinarian also received an award at the ceremony. Dr. Valerie Campbell of Blue Ridge Veterinary Associates was honored with the **Veterinarian Award** for her service to the community, especially her team’s work with several foxhounds that were rescued from a devastating barn fire. Loudoun County



Animal Care & Control was also nominated for three additional awards – the Humane Education Award for its Volunteer Apprentice Program, the Animal Rescue Award for the rescue of several foxhounds from a barn fire, and the Animal Control Officer team award for continuing service to the community.

Attention Livestock Owners

Animal Care and Control, in partnership with Extension Services of Loudoun County, will be hosting a series of free educational workshops in October to help livestock owners prepare for emergencies.

"There are a wide range of emergencies or disasters that can affect livestock owners," noted Kim Miller, Loudoun County Chief Animal Control Officer. "As we found during the blizzard last winter, the best way for livestock owners to avoid catastrophe is to be prepared."

Each seminar will cover a wide variety of topics to help livestock owners prepare for many different types of emergencies that could affect their farms. Topics include: emergency planning for livestock, how to develop an emergency

plan for a farm, necessary supplies for farms, community planning, managing during an emergency, and available resources. Attendees will receive a complimentary Livestock Emergency Planner.

Workshop dates and times are:

Thursday, October 14 – 7:00-9:00pm
MARE Center, Conference Room
5527 Sullivans Mill Road, Middleburg

Tuesday, October 19 – 7:00-9:00pm
Loudoun County Extension Office
30-B Catoctin Circle, SE, Leesburg



Wednesday, October 20 – 7:00-9:00pm
Lovettsville Community Center
57 E Broad Way, Lovettsville

The workshops are free and open to the public. Please RSVP to Kim Miller, Loudoun County Chief Animal Control Officer, at 703-737-8913 or via email at Kim.Miller@loudoun.gov or to Corey Childs, Extension Agent, at 703-777-0373 or via email at cchilds@vt.edu.

September Employee of the Month

Kathy Baugher is September's Employee of the Month! Kathy is being recognized for excellent and unselfish work as an Animal Care Technician. Kathy's co-workers and supervisors recognized her exceptional work including cleaning the laundry room and finishing a kennel for a co-worker; helping a co-worker finish the cat areas and helping them with their dishes; getting all the empty cages clean; and for helping house a large number of

kittens. Her co-workers also extended their appreciation for her idea to have a lunch break for the shelter and customer service staff.

Her hard work, support of the staff and the organization, and commitment to the care and welfare of the animals housed at the shelter is highly commendable and reflects great credit upon herself and the Department.

Thank you Kathy for all you do!



Congratulations Kathy!

What We're Up To

Microchip Success

Thank you to the Vet Tech Club at Northern Virginia Community College for hosting a Dog Wash/Microchip Clinic on October 2 at the Sterling campus! Animal Care & Control staff and volunteers microchipped **24 pets**, ensuring that they can be returned to their owners quickly should they become lost. A great time was had by all!

Mobile Adoptions Keep Rolling

Don't forget the mobile adoption vehicle stops **every Thursday** from **3:00-7:00pm** at the **Petco** in the Dulles 28 Centre (at the intersection of Rt 28 and Waxpool Road). If you're looking for a pet, and can't make it out to Waterford, this is a great opportunity to visit! Be sure to stop by and see us!

